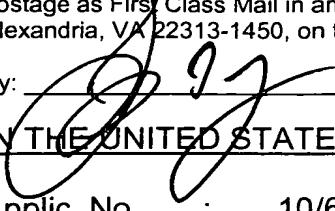


Docket No.: S&ZFH031002

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

By: 

Date: December 22, 2003

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applic. No. : 10/698,074  
Applicant : Karl-Friedrich Becker et al.  
Filed : October 30, 2003  
Art Unit : to be assigned  
Examiner : to be assigned  
  
Docket No. : S&ZFH031002  
Customer No. : 24131

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Hon. Commissioner for Patents

Sir:

It has been determined that previously submitted DE 101 58 307 and DE 101 37 184 have a publication date of February 20, 2003 and February 27, 2003, respectively, which is after the *effective filing date* of October 30, 2002 of the instant application and are therefore not to be considered prior art.

Please remove these two references from the previously filed IDS.

Respectfully submitted,

For Applicants

Gregory L. Mayback  
Reg. No. 40,719

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